



2010 "VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH INVASIVES" GRANTS REPORT FORM

Display Report

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project Title:	Invasive Plant Detection, Control, and Replacement with Native Plants	
Region: Use region number ONLY	1	
Station:	Steigerwald Lake NWR	
Contact Person: Name and Phone Number	Jim Clapp 360-835-8767	
Project Description: (Up to 250 words)	This project would maintain and expand annual invasive plant survey, control, & monitoring on Steigerwald Lake NWR. Early detection surveys, rapid response, large scale treatment, monitoring, and GPS data collection would be required annually to direct and focus strategies to reduce invasive plant threats to a 4-acre area of riparian forest along Gibbons Creek. This area is located west of a 2-acre area to be planted by the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership with 2010 CCS funds during the winter of 2010-2011. Invasives include Himalayan blackberry, Canada thistle, and reed canary-grass. Following treatments, native shrubs and trees will be replanted to reclaim areas held by blackberry, eventually providing canopy shade to reduce the invasives. This proposal is part of a multi-year effort to control invasives and plant woody vegetation in the riparian woodland along Gibbons Creek. Volunteer crews, plant hunters and herbicide applicators will be used after necessary training in invasives control/native vegetation planting and the importance of riparian habitat restoration. To the maximum degree possible, funds will be obligated in FY 2010. Work will take place from Aug. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2011, with most invasives control work occurring in 2010 and most native planting occurring in 2011.	
List of Invasives Species Targeted:	Common Name	Scientific Name
	Himalayan blackberry	<i>Rubus discolor</i>
	Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
	bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
	reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Project Status:	Completed	
Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: (mm/dd/yyyy)	09/30/2011	

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Volunteer Affiliation: (Check all that apply)	VA_FriendsGrp VA_Scouts VA_SchoolGrp VA_CivicOrg VA_Other
Volunteer Involvement: Describe the type of work the volunteers performed. (Up to 150 words)	One (1) volunteer surveyed the planting site for invasives prior to control/planting; he will do a followup in February 2012. Volunteer crews (1-2 individuals) cut dead blackberries and thistle, and living but less robust reed canarygrass during summer to reduce competition between new plantings and canarygrass. Civic and school groups planted and installed protective devices around newly planted vegetation. Other volunteers helped with volunteer recruitment flyer development/distribution.
Total Number of Volunteers:	1207 Volunteer Visits
Total Number of Volunteer Hours:	3851
Partnerships: List both new and existing partnerships utilized in this project. (Up to 150 words).	Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, community volunteers.

PROJECT RESULTS

Project Results: Give an overview of the results of the project. Include quantifiable measure of success, such as maps produced, efficacy of control measures, number of sites where invasions were detected early and responded to, number of community contacts, etc. (Up to 250 words).	One (1) volunteer trained in GPS use surveyed the project area and recorded invasive infestations before herbicide application; he will do a followup survey during February 2012. A contractor was hired to spray blackberry, thistle, and reed canarygrass, and refuge staff cut down the dead vegetation prior to planting. A volunteer recruitment flyer was developed and e-mailed to past and current volunteers, a variety of organizations (environmental, governmental, educational, etc.), and distributed to local businesses and offices by personnel from the refuge, Refuge Stewards and LCREP. Volunteer planting team leaders leading volunteer crews replanted project site with native riparian understory species (28 community planting days, 15 school planting days, for a total of 1189 volunteer visits and 3690 volunteer hours) A total of 8,185 (8 species) native trees/shrubs were planted and maintained. Two (2) volunteers weeded canarygrass around individual plants during the summer after plantings (16 volunteer visits, 113 volunteer hours). In addition to vegetation, herbicide, tree protector tubes and stakes were purchased and installed.
Number of Acres Treated:	4
Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped:	4
Number of Acres Restored:	4

BUDGET INFORMATION

Budget: Account for funds in broad categories such as equipment, volunteer stipends, travel, coordinator salary/contract, etc.

Total Grant Amount:	\$ \$6274
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Breakdown of Expenditures:

Category	Total \$ Spent	% of Total Grant
Equipment / Supplies		

Chemical		
Biocontrol Agents		
Travel		
Volunteer Stipends		
Volunteer Coordinator Salary/Contract		
Restoration Materials	\$5274	84
Other	\$1000 - Herbicide Contractor	16
TOTAL	\$6274	

Recommendations: (OPTIONAL)

How useful was this program for meeting refuge invasive species objectives and how can it be improved?

This program was a critical component of our multi-year approach to help meet objectives of reducing invasive species and increasing the presence of native tree/shrub species, which in the long run should greatly reduce the incidence/vigor of the invasive vegetation along Gibbons Creek.

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